

# Crime Commission Update

December 2007



<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As 2007 comes to a close, we say good-bye and good luck to Nancy Steeves. She made many good friends around Nebraska in her 29 year career and will be missed by all. Also, during 2007, we welcomed Brad Hicken, Diane Wotipka, Audra Cook and Sonja Dooley to our staff.

Finally, I want to offer each of you, **Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 2008 from the Crime Commission.**

~ Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

## NEW INSTRUCTORS AT LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

Two new staff instructors joined the NLETC in November. Jamie Keatts, a former Washington County Sheriff's sergeant with 12 years of law enforcement experience, is an active member of the Military, having served in Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Keatts' area of expertise will be Use of Force and scheduling MILO Use of Force simulator sessions for Nebraska agencies desiring regional training. Mr. Keatts is also coordinating the Reserve program. Jamie can be contacted at (308) 385-6030, ext 308 or via email at the following address: [jamie.keatts@nletc.state.ne.us](mailto:jamie.keatts@nletc.state.ne.us).

Mark Stephenson, a former lieutenant with the Valentine Police Department, has considerable previous law enforcement experience in Texas. He has a total of 17 years of law enforcement experience and will be specializing in drug and domestic violence investigations. He can be contacted at (308) 385-6030, ext 310 or via email at the following address: [mark\\_stephenson@nletc.state.ne.us](mailto:mark_stephenson@nletc.state.ne.us).

## NEW JAIL STANDARDS FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Nebraska Jail Standards is pleased to announce the hiring of Chris Harrifeld as the new Jail Standards Field Representative. Chris' experience includes 11 years with the Nebraska Department of Corrections as a Lieutenant, Unit Case Manager, guest academy instructor in defensive tactics and emergency preparedness. He also possesses past experience in law enforcement as well as working with Immigration Customs Enforcement while with the DCS. Prior to joining Jail Standards, Chris was a Compliance Monitor for the Nebraska Crime Commission and worked with drug task force grants. We are thankful to have Chris on board and know he will make an excellent addition to the Jail Standards Division.

## NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The Law Enforcement Training Center's database reports the following law enforcement agency statistics, which illustrate the rural nature of most of Nebraska's counties and the concentration of population in a few areas of the State.

<u>Agency Size</u>	<u>Percentage of Agencies in Nebraska</u>
1 officer	13.8%
2-5 officers	38.9%
6-10 officers	24.3%
11-25 officers	12.1%
26-100 officers	8.9%
More than 100 officers	2.0%

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## Nebraska Law Enforcement Agencies - Continued

There are 247 law enforcement agencies in Nebraska. 190 employ 10 or less officers, 52 employ 11-100 officers, and 5 employ more than 100 officers.

<u>Agency Size</u>	<u>Percentage of Officers Employed in Nebraska</u>
1 officer	.8%
2-5 officers	7.9%
6-10 officers	10.7%
11-25 officers	11.7%
26-100 officers	22.7%
More than 100 officers	46.2%

There are 3,976 sworn law enforcement officers employed in Nebraska. Of these, 1,902 of them work in the 5 agencies that employ 100 or more officers.

### RICK BARNICA

After nearly 12 years at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, Deputy Director of Administration, Rick Barnica has announced his intent to retire by year's end.

Rick's tenure has been marked with a period of very remarkable change. Between 1999 through 2001, and beyond, he was an absolutely critical part of the collocation of our two academies, the original Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy, into this single facility.

The footprint of the original NLETC building doubled as the two operations of two state agencies were folded into this one location. Unless you know what to look for, it is sometimes difficult to know if you are in the 30 year old section of the facility or one of the four new wings.

It serves as a good analogy of Rick's shepherding of all the change we have seen at the NLETC, in that it has been just as seamless as a walk through the building, from the oldest parts of this facility to the newest. It took a lot of hard work and planning for that to occur and Deputy Director Barnica was a principal player on that team.

At one time, Deputy Director Barnica was in charge of the custodial/maintenance care as the NLETC owned and managed the facility. He

## Rick Barnica - Continued

facilitated the transition to the Department of Administrative Services, Buildings Division, taking over ownership, management and care of the physical plant. He has continued to work closely with the Department of Administrative Services personnel to ensure that the facility meets all our high expectations.

Mr. Barnica served as interim director of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in the year before William Muldoon's appointment to director in 2006.

Last, Mr. Barnica took on a challenge of going about the state and speaking to young people about a future as a law enforcement officer and what steps to take to join our profession. This was a new role and it continues to be a challenge of our profession as a number of people-service professions look towards the problem of how we fill our projected staff shortages as the baby boomers retire and there is competition to attract the fewer public-service minded young people to choose the law enforcement profession over the many other excellent opportunities available to them.

Deputy Director Barnica was the keynote speaker of the 169th Basic graduation and spoke of the importance of maintaining compassion as the new graduates begin their law enforcement careers. He said that society has only a few special people who have committed to upholding the law. With that authority, comes those who "have an intense interest in how you wield that power." He commented that most who answer the calling to become a law enforcement officer do so because they want to make a difference in their community. He urged the graduates to "perform your duties with compassion." He was presented with a plaque honoring his years of service at the graduation. Assisting with the presentation was Cass County Sheriff William Brueggemann, representing the Nebraska Crime Commission.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:

### SEARCH AND SEIZURE (DVD)

2 DVDs                      114 Minutes                      AD  
Law Enforcement Research Center: 2005

These two DVDs contain six segments on search and seizure issues for law enforcement personnel. The instructor is John Tierny, and the format includes lectures with scenarios. DVD One contains Probable Cause (22 minutes) and Stop and Frisk (22 minutes). DVD Two contains Warrantless Searches, Searches Incident to Arrest, Searches of the Home, and Automobile Searches. DVD Two is 70 minutes. These are excellent programs for basic or refresher training.

### OUT OF HARM'S WAY: PERSONAL SAFETY AT HOME AND AWAY FROM HOME (DVD)

26 Minutes                      Meridian: 2006                      AD

This program includes police officers giving practical advice on situations that arise every day and involve personal safety issues. Included are segments on (1) On the Go, (2) In and Around Your Car, (3) Going to the ATM, (4) Elevator vs. Stairs, (5) Exercising Outdoors, (6) Approached by Strangers, (7) Safety at Work, (8) Internet Safety, (9) Identity Theft, (10) Phone Safety, and (11) Safety at Home. This is an excellent video to show to neighborhood groups.

### ECSTASY RISING (DVD)

44 Minutes                      SH, COL, AD  
Films For The Humanities: 2005

Hosted by Peter Jennings of ABC News, this program looks at the phenomenal popularity of Ecstasy, which is one of the most widely used illegal drugs. More than two million new users try Ecstasy each year. The program looks at the history of the drug, i.e. how it was discovered by a chemist in 1976, and how its use spread across the country. There are real risks associated with using the drug, as well as anti-drug campaigns that may be overstating the dangers. Even a single dose can have side effects on the brain, and the long term effects are not known. This is an excellent program that presents an informed and balanced look at Ecstasy.

## DRUGS: USES AND ABUSES – STEROIDS (DVD)

24 Minutes                      SH, COL, AD  
Cambridge Educational: 2000

This program examines the use and abuse of anabolic steroids and GHB, a synthetic steroid-like substance and date-rape drug. Interviews with pharmacists, fitness trainers, a football coach, an athlete, former users, and addiction counselors add perspective to the problems of using steroids. Side effects are discussed, including liver tumors, renal failure, impotence, and "roid rage", which can lead to violence and even suicide. This is an excellent program to show to citizen or school groups and it goes beyond the "just say no" mentality to present an informed look at potentially dangerous substances.

## SUICIDE AND THE POLICE OFFICER (DVD)

39 Minutes                      AD  
Films For The Humanities: 2004

This program, produced by the New York City Police Foundation, tells the stories of three different police officers who struggled with thoughts of suicide. Each had a different result. The underlying problems that can lead to suicide are examined, including alcohol or drug abuse, relationship problems, and difficulties in dealing with violence. This video provides a forum for understanding and perhaps lessening the pressures that lead to suicide. It is useful for basic or in-service training needs.

## SERVING CRIME VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES (VHS)

17 Minutes                      AD  
Office For Victims of Crime: 2001

Every year, thousands of crime victims never receive the services and support they need. There are particular challenges for many victims with disabilities, including physical accessibility and attitudinal barriers. This video is designed to encourage victim advocates to actively reach out and serve crime victims with a wide range of disabilities. This can be done in partnership with disability advocates. This program provides useful information for victim advocates.

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### **Criminal Justice Video Library - Continued:**

#### **CRISP COUNTY DEPUTY'S MIRACLE COMEBACK (DVD)**

30 Minutes

AD

In The Line Of Duty: 2007

This program shows an incident captured on the in-car video of a rural Georgia deputy sheriff. The deputy makes a traffic stop at night on a highway, and the driver immediately jumps out of his car when the deputy reaches the driver-side window. The deputy is shot in the face at close range and falls to the ground. When the driver's gun jams, he starts pistol whipping the deputy, and tries to take the deputy's firearm. The deputy gets off the ground and returns fire as the driver gets in his car and leaves the scene.

The bullet did not penetrate the deputy's brain or spinal cord, and he made a complete recovery. The deputy is interviewed in this program and a final segment presents a list of "lessons learned", i.e. there is no such thing as a routine traffic stop and it is important to practice weapon retention skills and keep your fear in check.

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### **VICTIM ASSISTANCE CENTERS**

#### **ADAMS COUNTY**

Adams County Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Unit  
P.O. Box 71  
Hastings, NE 68902  
402-461-7242

#### **BUFFALO COUNTY**

Kearney Police Department  
Victim Witness Program  
2025 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
308-236-6641

#### **BUTLER/POLK COUNTIES**

David City Police Department  
Victim Assistance Program  
475 North 3rd Street  
David City, NE 68632  
402-367-3133

### **Victim Assistance Centers - Continued:**

#### **DAKOTA COUNTY**

Dakota County Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Unit  
701 West 29th Street  
South Sioux City, NE 68776  
402-494-7550

#### **DAWSON COUNTY**

Dawson County Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Program  
700 North Washington  
Lexington, NE 68850  
308-324-5702

#### **DODGE COUNTY VICTIM SERVICES**

219 East 4th Street  
Fremont, NE 68025  
402-727-2795

#### **GAGE COUNTY**

Beatrice Police Department  
Victim Assistance Program  
201 North 5th Street  
Beatrice, NE 68310  
402-223-4080

#### **HALL COUNTY**

Grand Island/Hal County  
Victim Witness Program  
231 South Locust, Suite 304  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
308-385-5051, ext. 357

#### **LANCASTER COUNTY**

Lincoln Police Department  
Victim/Witness Unit  
233 South 10th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-441-7181

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

Lincoln County Attorney's Office  
Victim/Witness Unit  
301 North Jeffers, Suite 101A  
North Platte, NE 69101  
308-534-4350

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**Victim Assistance Centers - Continued:****MADISON COUNTY**

Madison County Attorney's Office  
 Victim Assistance Program  
 P.O. Box 269  
 Madison, NE 68748  
 402-454-3311, ext. 209

**OMAHA/DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Douglas County Attorney's Office  
 Victim Assistance Program  
 1905 Harney Street  
 Omaha, NE 68102  
 402-444-4597

**PLATTE COUNTY**

Platte County Attorney's Office  
 Victim Assistance Program  
 2610 14th Street  
 Columbus, NE 68601  
 402-563-4971

**SARPY COUNTY**

Sarpy County Attorney's Office  
 Victim/Witness Unit  
 1257 Golden Gate Drive, Suite 10W  
 Papillion, NE 68046  
 402-593-2201

**SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY**

Scotts Bluff County Attorney's Office  
 Victim/Witness Unit  
 1725 10th Street  
 Gering, NE 69341  
 308-436-6674

**U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE , DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

Victim/Witness Unit  
 1620 Dodge Street, Suite 1400  
 Omaha, NE 68102  
 402-661-3700

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Victim Assistance Unit  
 10755 Burt Street  
 Omaha, NE 68114  
 402-492-3732

**Victim Assistance Centers - Continued:****NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

Victim Advocate  
 P.O. Box 94661  
 Lincoln, NE 68509  
 402-479-5867  
 877-806-2909 (toll free)

**SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2006:**

Crisis Intervention	2,186
Personal Advocacy	2,137
Information/Referral in Person	5,486
Emergency Financial Assistance	64
Emergency Legal Advocacy	139
Follow-up Contact	33,948
Therapy	3
Group Treatment	59
Criminal Justice Support/Advocacy	45,751
Compensation Assistance	1,143
Transportation	104
Information/Referral Phone Contact	28,896
Protection Order Assists	1,898

~Source: Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime



## **NEBRASKA STATE PATROL RECEIVES REACCREDITATION**

(Lincoln, NE) - The Nebraska State Patrol has once again received reaccreditation. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) recognized the Patrol as an accredited agency on Saturday, November 17, 2007, during its annual Commission meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"Remaining accredited takes the commitment of everyone in the agency," said Colonel Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "I would like to express my appreciation to both sworn and civilian employees who have worked extremely hard to ensure the Nebraska State Patrol remains in compliance with the more than 350 accreditation standards."

A team of assessors from CALEA visited Nebraska in August, spending numerous days examining all aspects of the agency's management, operations and support services.

The Nebraska State Patrol was first accredited in 1989. Accreditation is granted for a period of three years, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which the agency was accredited. The agency's next accreditation review will take place in the fall of 2010.



**Happy Holidays from the Staff of the  
Nebraska Crime Commission**

## **NCJIS TRAINING IN JANUARY**

NCJIS training will be available January 17, 2008 in Bellevue and other locations this spring.

NCJIS is a secure web site that allows Nebraska criminal justice professionals to access a variety of data in a cost effective and direct method. NCJIS currently has over 300 agencies actively using this tool to search for individuals or to confirm information. Using your own Internet connection NCJIS can provide access to the Nebraska State Patrol Criminal Histories (PCH - Nebraska records as maintained by NSP, not national), probationers, detention holds (jail bookings and Nebraska Department of Correctional Services holds), parolees, Nebraska Sex Offender Registry (maintained by the NSP), local incident information, Nebraska Court case information, Nebraska Protection Orders, Nebraska Warrants, Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver history, vehicle history, driver's license photos, Nebraska Health and Human Services Ward information and Nebraska Department of Labor information. NCJIS has been made possible by the participating agencies providing access to their data. We continue to work to add more data sources and more functionality and have recently added new features.

Also, NCJIS has a recently updated agency administration module. There are significant changes to how user accounts are created and how you obtain certificates for existing users as well as other features. If you are an NCJIS Administrator for your agency and have not seen this since December, 2006 we recommend you attend refresher training.

Additional training will be held January 17th in Bellevue, March 27th in Scottsbluff and May 22nd at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.

Criminal justice agencies are invited to participate by attending a training session. The morning session is for general users while administrator training is in the afternoon (required for new agencies). If you are interested in attending please email Michael Overton or Matthew Dicke ([matt.dicke@ncc.ne.gov](mailto:matt.dicke@ncc.ne.gov)) to receive a registration form. These training sessions are open to all current and new NCJIS agencies.

## **INCREASE IN PRISON POPULATION REPORTED BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

During the 12 months that ended June 30, 2006, the nation's prison and jail populations increased by 62,037 inmates (up 2.8 percent), to total 2,245,189 inmates, according to figures released by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

State and federal inmates accounted for 70 percent of the increase, BJS said. At midyear 2006, two thirds of the nation's incarcerated population was in custody in a state or federal prison (1,479,179), and the other third was held in local jails (766,010).

The number of prisoners under the legal jurisdiction of state or federal correctional authorities - some of whom were held in local jails - increased by 42,552 prisoners (2.8 percent) during the 12 months ending June 30, 2006, to reach 1,556,518 prisoners. In absolute number and percentage change, the increase in prisoners under state or federal jurisdiction was the largest since the 12 months ending June 30, 2000.

The growth in state prisoners was due largely to a rise in prison admissions, up 17.2 percent between 2000 and 2005. During the same period, releases from state prisons increased at a slower rate, up 15.5 percent. New court commitments totaled 421,426 during 2005, a 20.3 percent increase since 2000; and parole violators returned to prison totaled 232,229, up 14.1 percent.

Forty-two states and the federal system reported an increase in their prison populations during the 12 months ending June 30, 2006. Alaska had the largest percentage increase (up 9.4 percent). Eight states reported declines in their prison populations, led by Missouri (down 2.9 percent), Louisiana and Maine (both down 1.8 percent).

The number of federal prisoners increased by 3.6 percent to reach 191,080 prisoners. At midyear 2006, the federal system had jurisdiction over more prisoners than did any single state, including California and Texas, which had jurisdiction over 175,115 and 172,889 prisoners, respectively.

## **Increase in Prison Population Reported by Justice Department - Continued:**

The number of local jail inmates increased by 2.5 percent during the year, the smallest annual percentage change since 2001. Since 2000, the number of unconvicted inmates held in local jails has been increasing, BJS said. As of June 30, 2006, 62 percent of inmates held in local jails were awaiting court action on their current charge, up from 56 percent in 2000.

During the year, local jail officials added slightly more beds (21,862) than inmates (18,481). At midyear 2006, local jail facilities operated at about 94 percent of capacity. On December 31, 2005, state prison systems were between 1 percent below and 14 percent above capacity. The federal prison system was operating at 34 percent above capacity.

During the 12 months ending June 30, 2006, the number of state and federal prisoners housed in private facilities increased by 10.1 percent to reach 111,975 prisoners (7.2 percent of all prisoners). State prisoners held in private facilities increased 12.9 percent; those under federal jurisdiction increased 2.1 percent.

African-American men comprised 37 percent of all inmates held in custody in the nation's prison and jails on June 30, 2006. About 4.8 percent of all African-American males in the general population were in prison or jail, compared to 1.9 percent of Hispanic males and 0.7 percent of white males. Among African-American men age 25-34 years, more than 11 percent were incarcerated in prison or jail.

The number of female prisoners continued to grow at a faster rate than male prisoners, the report said. Between midyear 2005 and midyear 2006, the female prison population increased by 4.8 percent to reach 111,403. In the same period, the male prison population grew by 2.7 percent to reach 1.4 million. African-American women were incarcerated at nearly four times the rate of white women and more than twice the rate of Hispanic women.

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### **Increase in Prison Population Reported by Justice Department - Continued:**

During the 12 months ending June 30, 2006, the number of juveniles (under the age of 18) in state prisons increased by 156 persons to reach 2,364, a 7.1 percent increase. This is the largest increase since 1995, BJS said.

~Reprinted from Criminal Justice Newsletter, published by Letter Publication.

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

There are five Fortune 500 companies based in Nebraska. They are: Berkshire Hathaway (ranked 13th), ConAgra (143), Union Pacific (164), Peter Kiewit Sons (483), and Mutual of Omaha Insurance (491).

~Source: Nebraska Blue Book. The rankings are from the April 17, 2006 issue of Fortune magazine.

### **THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY**

Thoughts on Christmas:

“At Christmas play and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year.”

~*Thomas Tusser*

“A lovely thing about Christmas is that it’s compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.”

~*Garrison Keillor*

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

~*Bob Hope*

“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”

~*Charles Dickens*